

DAILY BIBLE READING

DAY 1 - ACTS 2:1-13

DAY 2 - ACTS 2:14-21

DAY 3 - ACTS 2:22-28

DAY 4 - ACTS 2:29-36

DAY 5 - ACTS 2:37-41

DAY 6 - ACTS 2:42-47

Focus: Spiritual Growth

Text: Acts 2:1-47

LESSON 4

CONFUSION TO CLARIFICATION

ACTS 2:1-13

September 25 or 28, 2005

King James Version

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

New International Version

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

SITE PREPARATION

Acts chapter 2 presents the early Christian movement and the birth of the New Testament church. Luke, the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, records events that led up to the final departure and ascension of the Lord Jesus into heaven (Luke 2:47-49). The Master had given His disciples some final words of farewell in their transition to expanding His ministry throughout the world. The message and mission was clear, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:46-49).

Jesus had spoken to His disciples about the kingdom of God and their further discussion as to when the kingdom of Israel would be restored (Acts 1:1-8). Two men stood by them as the Lord ascended into heaven telling them that the same way Jesus had departed He would return in like manner (Acts 1:9-13).

After Jesus had departed, the disciples returned to Jerusalem as the Lord had instructed them. They assembled in the upper room where no doubt they had congregated with Jesus on many occasions. The Lord, who had been in their presence for at least three and half years, was now gone. The disciples decided to pray and to await the arrival of the Spirit who would empower them for their global task. Peter and the other apostles selected Matthias to take the apostolic office vacated by Judas who had fallen by transgression.

FOUNDATION PREPARATION

Things that take place in the church and the Christian life cannot be disconnected from the Spirit. Indeed the Spirit is at work in the church and in the life of each believer. The people of God are spirit people. We have come to life by the life-giving Spirit (Galatians 5:25; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6). We walk by the Spirit. We are led by the Spirit. We are anointed with the Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:2). God gave us His Spirit (Romans 3:5). God has poured His Spirit out on us (Titus 3:6). We are sealed with the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). Indeed, we have received the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12; 2 Corinthians 11:4). We

have been saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 15:16). We have been circumcised in our hearts by the Spirit (Romans 2:29). We have been joined to Christ so as to become one Spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:7). We have been washed, sanctified, justified by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:11). We have been born of the Spirit (John 3:3-5; Galatians 4:29; Titus 3:5, 6).

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

On the day of Pentecost, believers came to fully experience the work of the Spirit. In addition to the full reality of regeneration, believers were baptized into the body of Christ, indwelt by the Spirit, sealed unto the day of redemption, and filled with the Spirit.

On the day of Pentecost, the church as the body of Christ began by the act of baptism. It is evident that some outward display of the fullness of the Spirit was fitting. In the providence of God, the ability to speak with tongues was given as a confirmation that God had wrought in them and as a token of the ultimate universal extension of the gospel to all nations.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came as promised upon the apostles (Acts 2:4). They then spoke with tongues. For them tongues were of a different kind of language; therefore, not the natural language of the speaker. The Jews of other nations heard the speakers speak in their “own languages” wherein they were born. Obviously, tongues were the real everyday human languages. These languages were clearly known and understood by those in the audience. Otherwise, how could they declare that the apostles spoke the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11)? Clearly, it was a supernatural work of God, designed to be a sign of His power attending the events of Pentecost.

When the people in the room became filled with the Spirit, they began speaking in tongues, a manifestation of that reality. The Greek word translated “tongues” (*glossa*) means “language.” In verse 11, the word clearly refers to various dialects. So, gibberish or ecstatic speech was not present in Acts 2, but real languages and dialects were.

Verses 9-11 specify which languages were being spoken. Notice that the languages came as a result of being filled with the Spirit.

The phenomenon of speaking in tongues was a special event for that era. Just because it happened at the birth of the church does not mean tongues will be present each time you are filled with the Spirit. If you look at the list of results Paul gives from being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:19; 6:9), you will notice that tongues—speaking in other languages—is not included. Husbands and wives will love each other, so will parents and children. Employers and employees will have good working relations. But by the time the book of Ephesians was written, tongues were not a manifestation of the filling of the Spirit anymore.

The miracle of speaking in tongues had a strategic purpose in Acts 2. At that time, Jewish people from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost.

God used this speaking in other languages to help the foreign Jews hear about Him in their native languages. The purpose of tongues becomes more apparent as we look further in the book of Acts.

Historic Pentecost has dispensational aspects. It is childish to argue that, because “Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8), therefore everything which happened in connection with Pentecost must be repeated today. The person of Christ never changes, but His manifestations may change. The waiting of the disciples for the Spirit in Acts 1 is clearly dispensational. No other group since Pentecost has a command to wait for the Spirit. The Holy Spirit has come to abide in the church in fulfillment of the promise of Christ (John 14:16).

The doctrinal system in the Pentecostal and charismatic movement is often based upon experienced or experiential theology. An experiential theology consists of the following ingredients: experience over Scripture, continual revelations (private revelations from God outside of Scripture), emphasis on tongue speaking, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and an emphasis on supernatural healings.

FINAL INSPECTION

1. What assurance did the disciples receive that convinced them that Jesus would return?

2. What impact did speaking in tongues have on the listening audience?
3. What Old Testament prophet had earlier prophesied about the coming of the Pentecost experience?
4. What did the ability to speak in tongues provide for the apostles?
5. What languages did the apostles speak on Pentecost?
6. What verse in Acts chapter two definitively announces that the apostles spoke in real languages?
7. Other than the apostles, who else was told to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Spirit?
8. What is experiential theology?
9. Why does experiential theology lack sound validity?
10. What does it mean that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever?
11. Without “tongues” how else could God have spoken to the foreigners at Pentecost?
12. According to the apostle Paul’s writings, what is the evidence of being filled with the spirit?

BUILDING PROJECT

Locate a person who currently makes the claim that he or she has spoken in tongues. Ask them to list three specific things that they can now do in their everyday Christian walk with the Lord that they could not do before their experience of speaking in tongues.